

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 350 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, MENSCH, SOLOBAY, ROBBINS, FERLO, DINNIMAN, STACK, TEPLITZ, WOZNIAK, GREENLEAF, WASHINGTON, ERICKSON, BROWNE, ARGALL, EICHELBERGER, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, SCHWANK, FARNESE, PILEGGI, FOLMER, WHITE, YAW, HUGHES, HUTCHINSON, VOGEL, KASUNIC, ALLOWAY, BREWSTER, SMITH, COSTA, VULAKOVICH, YUDICHAK, VANCE, BRUBAKER, TARTAGLIONE, CORMAN, GORDNER, McILHINNEY, SCARNATI, SMUCKER, TOMLINSON, WAGNER AND WARD, APRIL 9, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 9, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 9, 2014, as "National Guard Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1747, Benjamin Franklin organized the  
4 "Associators" in Philadelphia which was the predecessor to  
5 today's Pennsylvania National Guard; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1755, the General Assembly of the Province of  
7 Pennsylvania received petitions from several counties "setting  
8 forth that the petitioners were very willing to defend  
9 themselves and their country"; and

10 WHEREAS, Responding to these petitions, the representatives  
11 of the Province of Pennsylvania, meeting in General Assembly,  
12 passed this Commonwealth's first militia law on November 25,  
13 1755; and

14 WHEREAS, The militia law, passed "for the better ordering and  
15 regulating such as are willing and desirous to be united for

1 military purposes within this province" created the volunteer  
2 militia and laid the legal foundation for the militia and the  
3 Pennsylvania National Guard; and

4 WHEREAS, Enactment of the act of November 25, 1755, marked  
5 the beginning of more than 250 years of cooperation and support  
6 from the General Assembly for the Pennsylvania militia, the  
7 Pennsylvania National Guard and the soldiers and airmen who  
8 proudly serve this Commonwealth and this nation; and

9 WHEREAS, For more than 250 years, in war and in peace,  
10 Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers and airmen have served at  
11 home and abroad, defending liberty in every war and responding  
12 to floods, blizzards and other emergencies at home; and

13 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's National Guard force reaches from the  
14 Joint Force Headquarters located at Fort Indiantown Gap, Lebanon  
15 County, to almost 90 communities across this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the  
17 top ten employers in this Commonwealth with approximately 3,500  
18 of its members serving in a full-time capacity and the remaining  
19 15,500 members serving as "traditional" Guard members who train  
20 on a part-time basis while pursuing civilian education or  
21 careers; and

22 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the  
23 largest national guard forces in the nation; and

24 WHEREAS, The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest  
25 continuously serving division in the United States Army; and

26 WHEREAS, The 213th Regional Support Group is the Pennsylvania  
27 National Guard's second major army unit that handles combat  
28 support missions, including transportation, finance and  
29 personnel services; and

30 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Air National Guard is made up of

1 the 111th Fighter Wing for air support missions and for a  
2 ground-control station for the MQ-9 Reaper, the 171st Air  
3 Refueling Wing for worldwide aerial refueling capabilities and  
4 the 193rd Special Operations Wing for providing the only aerial  
5 broadcasting capability in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, In times of war, national or State emergency, or in  
7 support of any military operation worldwide, the President may  
8 mobilize units of the national guard into active Federal  
9 service; and

10 WHEREAS, The active Federal service of the Pennsylvania  
11 National Guard has included service in every conflict America  
12 has faced, from the Revolutionary War through Operation Enduring  
13 Freedom, as well as peacekeeping missions around the globe; and

14 WHEREAS, In peacetime, the Pennsylvania National Guard offers  
15 broad support to the civilian community through the Counterdrug  
16 Task Force, which provides trained personnel and specialized  
17 equipment to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in  
18 the fight against the use of illegal drugs; and

19 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania National Guard members serve as role  
20 models, as well as community volunteers and civic leaders,  
21 throughout this Commonwealth; and

22 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard's outstanding  
23 performance was on display to support civil government authority  
24 to protect and preserve life and property during times of  
25 natural or manmade disaster and during civil emergencies; and

26 WHEREAS, Over the past two years, there have been three major  
27 State Active Duty operations in which 4,273 Guard members have  
28 been deployed in response to State emergencies and the  
29 Presidential Inauguration; and

30 WHEREAS, After more than a decade of sustained high-intensity

1 combat operations, the Pennsylvania National Guard continues to  
2 fight overseas and support regional domestic missions here at  
3 home; and

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard has supported nearly  
5 35,000 individual deployments since September 11, 2001, making  
6 it one of the busiest and most heavily deployed national guards  
7 in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, The continued support of the General Assembly has  
9 been and continues to be critical to the success of the  
10 Pennsylvania National Guard; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate April 9, 2014, as  
12 "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That it be the intent of the Senate to recognize  
14 the men and women of our armed forces for their dedicated  
15 service to this Commonwealth and this nation and commend them  
16 especially for the outstanding performance of their duties  
17 around the world, in the Global War on Terror and in response to  
18 natural disasters; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate give thanks for the Pennsylvania  
20 National Guard and the service of generations of soldiers and  
21 airmen from across Pennsylvania from our days as a royal colony  
22 to the great Commonwealth we are today; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
24 the Governor and to the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania.